



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

“And Jesus went throughout all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.’” **Matthew 9:35–38**



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There are more than 7 billion people on the earth today. Of those 7 billion, more than 5 billion are lost without Jesus. In the United States alone, there are more than 200 million people who are lost. There is much harvesting to be done for the kingdom of God. But a plentiful harvest requires plentiful workers to bring in the harvest.

Jesus is very clear on this point as he speaks with his disciples. They were going about the countryside teaching, proclaiming the gospel and healing people. Yet this wasn't enough. There were still multitudes of people they could not reach with the good news of the kingdom. Even Jesus was limited by time, energy and availability. He could only be in one place at the time and he only had 24 hours in a day. All that need can seem overwhelming, but Jesus didn't see it that way. He saw the great need as a potential great harvest for the kingdom. His answer to the need for more harvesters is instructive. He didn't begin with a rally to drum up interest; he didn't go on recruiting trips and he didn't hire a search firm. He told his disciples to pray the Lord of the harvest would send more workers for the harvest.

This is an especially urgent reminder to us today as our denomination and others struggle to find pastors to fill our pulpits and missionaries to take the gospel to unreached people groups. All Christians are commissioned to be ambassadors for the kingdom and proclaimers of the gospel. The great harvest Jesus talks about in Matthew 9 will require every one of his followers being faithful to the Great Commission. The Lord also calls some to vocational ministry as pastors, missionaries, chaplains, etc. We especially need to ask God to raise up more and more of these workers whose primary

work is to equip the rest of the church for the harvest. Let us follow Jesus' admonition and earnestly plead with the Lord to raise up abundant workers, because the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few.

AS YOU PRAY THIS WEEK:

- Thank God for faithful kingdom workers he has raised up in your life and church.
- Pray for your pastors, missionaries and other kingdom workers whose primary work is to spread the gospel.
- Pray the Lord will raise up an abundance of laborers for his harvest.
- Pray God will provide the resources necessary to train, send and support these new laborers.
- Pray and ask the Lord if he is calling you as a laborer in the harvest.

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